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*Fifty Years in the Making of Australian History.* By SIR HENRY PARKES, G.C.M.G. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1891.—8vo, xv, 679 pp. With Portraits.

A hasty glance at this bulky volume would suggest a comparison with the selection which Mr. Lane-Poole made three years ago from the papers of Sir George Bowen, under the title, *Thirty Years of Colonial Government*. The comparison would, however, be misleading. Sir George Bowen's volumes, for they were really his, dealt with a number of colonies from the standpoint of a representative of the crown, and, as was pointed out in these pages, the work sadly needed condensation. Sir Henry Parkes' book, on the other hand, deals practically with a single colony, New South Wales, from the standpoint of a representative of the people, and it would be hard to show where or how it could well be condensed. Although it abounds in selections from the author's speeches and correspondence (which show a remarkable command of forcible and generally correct English), and although it devotes page after page to matters that can hardly be said to have other than local importance, it would be difficult to name a book of its kind that possesses such general interest or conveys so much valuable information.

Perhaps much of its interest is derived from the personality of Sir Henry Parkes himself. It is true that the veteran statesman is scrupulously reticent as to the facts of his private life, and that he endeavors to give as far as possible an impersonal view of the legislation he describes in such detail. But the rugged independence, the sterling sincerity of conviction, the wide-reaching knowledge and the masterful self-assertion that have made him, next to Sir John Macdonald, the greatest statesman the English colonies have produced in our generation, could not be prevented from inspiring this volume and making it in every sense a notable political autobiography.

We learn, inferentially, that Henry Parkes was born about the year 1815, that he emigrated with a wife and child to New South Wales in 1839, and that for many years he had a hard struggle to support himself. It was eleven years before his ability became widely known or he himself ventured to make a speech in public. It was fifteen years before he was elected to represent Sydney in the old Legislative Council, two years before the grant of responsible government to the colony. He was offered a post in the first ministry, but preferred to edit a newspaper, which nearly ruined

him financially, and to work as a simple member of the legislature for popular and liberal reforms. His first office was that of commissioner of emigration in England—a position which brought him in contact with men like Bright and Cobden and Gladstone. Returning to the colony, he accepted the post of colonial secretary in the Martin ministry of 1866. In this capacity he distinguished himself by carrying through the Public Schools Act of 1866, by his development of the colonial hospitals, and by his active measures against the bushrangers, but he was severely, and it would seem unjustly, criticized on account of the disturbances caused by the attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1872 he formed his first ministry, and since then he has held the office of premier four times, having been in office eleven years, nine months and fourteen days, out of a total of thirty years. His course has been that of a consistent free-trader, an advocate of Australian unity, a preserver of the strictest forms of parliamentary government, and a loyal upholder of the integrity of the British Empire. He has legislated with great success, although not without violent criticism, on the public school question, which excites the Roman Catholics in Australia as much as it does in this country, on the liquor question, on the state ownership of railroads, and on the proposed federation of Australasia. One of the most interesting chapters of his book is devoted to the last named topic.

The above brief analysis of Sir Henry's career will indicate the character and importance of the information that may be gained from his pages. His autobiography will be indispensable to students of Australian history and highly valuable to students of comparative politics. Indeed, it may be doubted whether its chief value does not lie in the flood of light it throws upon the working of the parliamentary system of responsible ministers when transplanted from its English birthplace. For this reason it will scarcely be a work of supererogation to recommend the volume to the small but hardy band of students who are urging us to remodel our constitution along English lines.

It should not be overlooked that this book has a literary flavor that will interest some readers. Sir Henry Parkes is a poet himself, but as Sir Charles Dilke says, "his debts, his poetry, are powerless to sink him." His poetical proclivities may account in part, however, for his friendship with Browning and Tennyson and for his admiration for Carlyle. Several letters from the latter are preserved, as well as a characteristic utterance with regard to our late war which I do not remember to have seen in print before.

The book has been well printed, but on pages 353-54 and in the index, which is well done, Governor *Cornell* appears as *Carnell*. The photogravure of the author which serves as a frontispiece is a welcome suggestion of the rugged, masterful character self-delineated in the pages that follow.

W. P. TRENT.

*Introduzione allo Studio dell' Economia Politica.* Di LUIGI COSSA. 3<sup>a</sup> edizione, interamente rifatta, della Guida allo Studio dell' Economia Politica. Milano, Hoepli, 1892. —xiv, 594 pp.

The name of Luigi Cossa on the title page of a book is in itself a eulogy. A whole phalanx of young economists recognize him as master. His *Elements of Economics and Finance* has had an exceedingly great and deserved success, as well as the rare honor of translation into nine languages. The present work, which is called the third edition of the *Guide to the Study of Political Economy*, is in reality an entirely new work. In it we notice Cossa's special gifts —great lucidity, precision and sobriety of thought and exposition, judicial impartiality, and above all an erudition that is profound without being either heavy or dry.

As in the preceding editions, the present volume is divided into two parts, theoretical and historical. In the first part the chapter on method is thoroughly revised, and a new chapter is added, on the character of political economy. In this latter the author traces the general lines of scientific classification and the limits of science and art. He refuses to follow the sociologists in considering economics as a physical and biological science, and he regards the analogies between the animal and the social organism as merely apparent. But at the same time he does not approve of the tendency of the recent Austrian school, which considers economics as an appendage of psychology, or mathematical psychics. And without denying the importance of the so-called hedonistic principle, he maintains that the subjective theory of utility and value is by no means the whole of economics, nor the pivot on which everything moves.

As to method, the essence of the question, as put by Cossa, lies in the limits to be assigned to induction and deduction. The great masters of the science, although disagreeing in the theory, have been at one in applying to practical questions the most